Shortage of power in the country

1845. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH:
SHRI RAJU PARMAR:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of power in the country and Government has failed to achieve the targets of supplying adequate power to various States;

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government is considering strengthening the hands of NTPC for generation of more power in various parts of the country and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) and (b) There is an overall shortage of power in the country presently. The shortage varies from State to State and time to time. The average electrical energy shortage in the country during the period April-June, 2005 was 8.9% and peak shortage was 13.1%.

Electricity is a concurrent subject. The supply and distribution of electricity in a State is the responsibility of the concerned State Government /State Power Utility. The Central Government supplements the efforts of State Government by way of generation capacity addition and establishment of bulk transmission system in the Central Sector through Central Public Sector Undertakings.

(c) Enhanced Delegation of Powers (Navratna Powers) were accorded by Government of India to NTPC in July, 1997. As per Navratna Powers, NTPC Board is empowered to *inter-alia* approve investment in its new/expansion projects without any monetary ceiling. Capacity addition of 9,160 MW thermal capacity is envisaged to be added by NTPC during the Tenth Plan.

Visit of officials of NTPC to West Asian countries to negotiate the procurement of gas

1846. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether top officials of NTPC have visited various West Asian